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OEP ANNOUNCES HOUSING AND CONSERVATION PLANNING PROGRAM GRANT AWARDEES

CONCORD, NH - The New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) is pleased to announce its 2008 Housing and Conservation Planning Program (HCPP) grant awardees. This new grant program enables municipalities to purchase technical planning assistance in order to plan for housing and conservation through a unified approach. This year's awardees are Acworth, Chichester, Marlow, Nottingham, Salisbury and Seabrook.

With over 10 percent of New Hampshire's municipalities submitting applications, the proposals OEP received demonstrated the number of people through the state who understand the need for comprehensive land use planning and stand ready to act if given the necessary resources. OEP feels fortunate, in this time of economic downturn, to meet the state's commitment to support forward-thinking, holistic planning at the local level. Indeed, OEP has full confidence that the recipients of this first round of HCPP funding will demonstrate the successful results that this innovative program enables.

Acworth, Marlow, Nottingham, and Seabrook have been awarded funding, under "Stage 1" of the program, to conduct projects that expand the knowledge platform upon which sound planning decisions can be based. Details assembled will include housing and demographic, natural and historic resources information and a build-out analysis. Chichester, a Stage 2 awardee, will be conducting a visioning project, where the town's existing knowledge base will be used to cultivate a community-wide discussion about how to best plan for regional housing needs as well as local land conservation and historic preservation. Coming into the program at the fourth and final stage, Salisbury will be following through with the research and discussion that went into its Town Master Plan by auditing its land use regulations and developing an open-space zoning provision and related subdivision amendments.

For more information on HCPP or to follow the progress of the awardees, visit www.nh.gov/oep/programs/HCPP or call OEP at (603) 271-2155.

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